



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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MISSOURI PSC HOSTS UTILITY REGULATION DELEGATION FROM JAMAICA

Jefferson City (May 19, 2003)---A delegation of utility experts from the Office of Utilities Regulation of Jamaica are the guests of the Missouri Public Service Commission this week as part of an energy partnership program administered through the United States Energy Association and funded by the United States Agency for International Development.

The Missouri Public Service Commission, along with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission, signed a memorandum of understanding this year to participate in a one year energy partnership program with the Office of Utilities Regulation of Jamaica.

This is the first time the Missouri Public Service Commission has been involved in this international energy partnership program.

"We are excited about this unique opportunity at the Missouri Public Service Commission to provide our technical expertise as well as to learn from our neighbors from Jamaica," stated PSC Chairman Kelvin Simmons. "I believe this program will result in substantial benefits to the United States and overseas partners and we are excited about the opportunity to participate."

The eight member delegation from Jamaica will receive an overview of the Missouri Public Service Commission, its structure, its management of the regulatory process and the role the Public Service Commission plays in Missouri. In addition, presentations will center on how the Commission operates and how information is accessed by employees and stakeholders.

"We will also provide information regarding our state-of-the-art electronic filing system at the Public Service Commission and compare it with technology systems being considered by the Office of Utilities Regulation of Jamaica," stated Chairman Simmons.

During their stay in Missouri, the delegation will also travel to Kansas City to view Kansas City Power & Light's Hawthorne 5 coal unit and the Hawthorne 1-4 natural gas units. The trip to Kansas City will also include a tour of the Kansas City Power & Light Call Center.

As part of the energy partnership program this week: The Commission, Tuesday afternoon, will have a panel discussion with various utility company representatives and John Coffman from the Office of the Public Counsel. Issues will focus on how utility companies and consumer advocates interact with state regulators. Thursday afternoon, Anita Randolph of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources will speak on coordinated efforts in Missouri to promote planning and energy efficiency.

The Energy Partnership Program is designed to transfer experience and information from United States utilities and regulatory agencies to overseas utilities and regulatory agencies in an effective and efficient manner, and to foster a long-term sustainable relationship between the partners.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding, the partnership will involve all aspects of regulatory operations and administration such as management, restructuring, finance and accounting, independent power, marketing, customer service, bulk power transactions, power dispatching, power system and operation and control, energy management systems, transmission and distribution system operation and development, strategic planning, and other matters which become necessary areas of expertise.